

NEW SOUTH WALES.

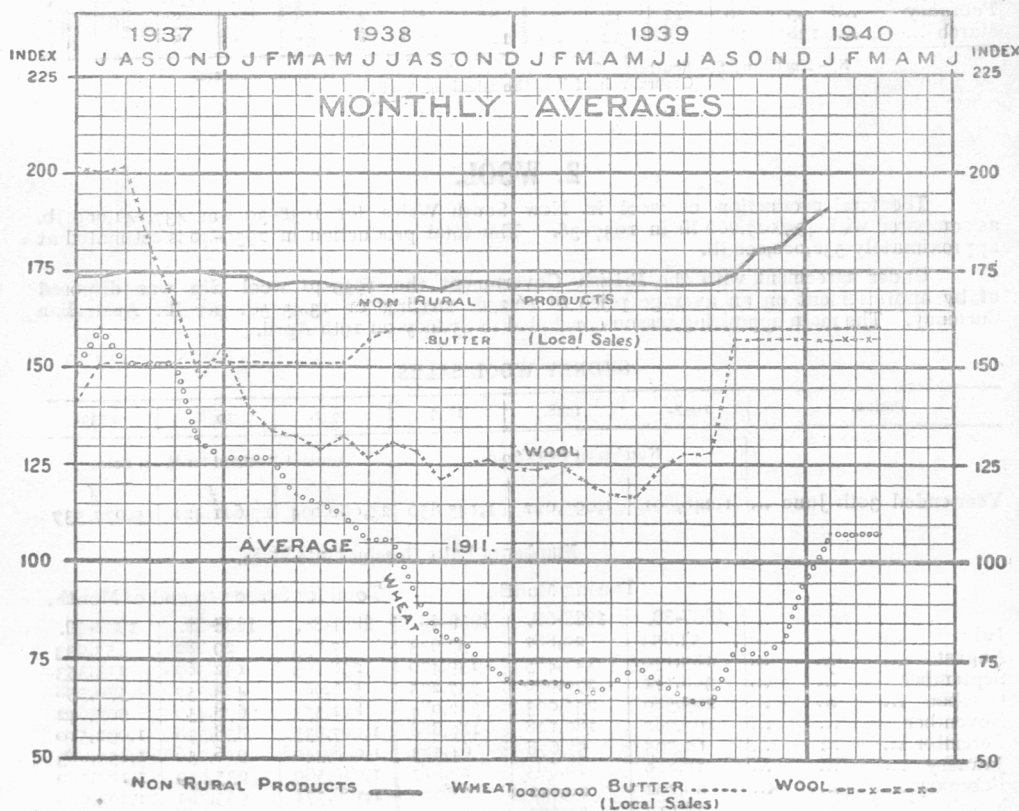
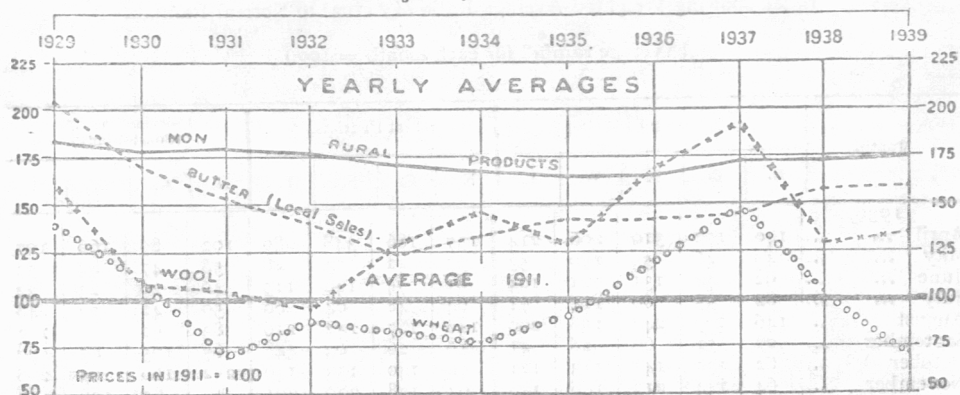
MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

No. 108. APRIL 24, 1940.

Issued by S. R. Carver, Government Statistician.

INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911 = 100.



All prices are in Australian currency. The indexes for recent months are shown in table 25 on page 11 of this summary. The footnotes to that table apply also to this graph.

SECTION A.—RAINFALL AND PRODUCTION.

1. RAINFALL—INDEX.

Index showing Weighted Average Ratio of Actual to Normal Rainfall.

(Average rainfall for each month = 100.)

Month.	Sheep Districts.					Wheat Districts.				Dairying Districts (Coastal only).			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.
1939.													
April ...	140	172	319	206	214	137	186	348	280	102	89	166	107
May ...	40	46	52	110	53	37	42	53	48	58	47	42	53
June ...	92	78	131	121	104	81	74	140	115	40	20	23	32
July ...	82	55	60	111	71	64	48	64	60	50	42	33	46
August ...	146	207	242	198	200	146	187	242	216	83	92	218	102
September ...	29	31	66	28	41	16	26	63	48	67	105	65	77
October ...	82	135	145	113	121	78	140	153	140	252	160	95	208
November ...	64	144	213	188	148	62	178	239	201	89	65	126	87
December ...	58	27	27	24	35	43	28	22	26	62	30	22	49
1940.													
January ...	32	27	33	27	30	24	24	24	24	59	61	50	58
February ...	95	8	12	17	34	87	5	9	18	65	18	20	47
March ...	128	18	5	32	46	111	15	5	21	132	88	6	104

N.—Northern; S.—Southern; C.—Central; W.—Western; T.—Total, all districts.
General rains fell in the middle of April.

2. WOOL.

The total production of wool in New South Wales for 1938-39 was 437,141,000 lb. as compared with 495,027,000 lb in 1937-38. The total production in 1939-40 is estimated at approximately 532,000,000 lb.

Under agreement with the British Government the 1939-40 wool clip was disposed of by appraisement on an average price of 10.25d. sterling or 13.4375d. per lb. Australian Currency. The main appraising season concluded in Sydney on 19th April.

SYDNEY WOOL SALES.

Period.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1937.	1938.	1939.
	Number of Bales Sold.			Amount Realised for Wool Sold.		
Year ended 30th June ...	1,246,801	1,095,022	1,143,856	£ 25,980,094	£ 17,621,421	£ 15,077,537

Number of Bales Received into Store.

	During Month.			Total for Season to end of Month.		
	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.
July ...	53,653	29,882	53,933	53,653	29,882	53,933
August ...	185,140	122,485	159,420	238,793	152,367	213,353
September ...	308,171	270,990	357,205	546,964	423,357	570,558
October ...	265,589	255,093	332,084	812,553	678,450	902,642
November ...	195,082	180,128	189,868	1,007,635	858,578	1,092,510
December ...	60,705	57,678	64,573	1,068,340	916,256	1,157,083
January ...	18,229	19,603	23,617	1,086,569	935,859	1,180,700
February ...	20,202	20,022	24,229	1,106,771	955,881	1,204,929
March ...	26,713	24,393	29,138	1,133,484	980,274	1,234,067

3. WHEAT.

In 1939-40 the total area cropped for grain was 4,392,000 acres and the wheat harvest 76,551,000 bushels as compared with 59,898,000 bushels in 1938-39.

WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTED OVERSEA FROM NEW SOUTH WALES (DIRECT).

Month.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.	1937-38.	1938-39.	1939-40.
	Bushels of Wheat.			Tons of Flour.		
December ...	2,242,125	1,068,383	82,363	16,365	14,071	19,255
January ...	951,257	637,067	597,937	14,280	19,561	36,208
February...	1,786,457	3,648,813	2,585,060	20,020	29,941	11,118
March ...	1,117,868	1,191,958	2,844,148	17,703	18,150	33,103

WHEAT AND FLOUR.

			Bushels of Wheat (Equivalent).			Value £.		
December ...	...	...	3,021,432	1,738,426	1,006,586	656,860	227,994	157,166
January ...	...	...	1,631,255	1,568,553	2,335,938	358,838	195,381	377,795
February ...	...	...	2,739,783	5,074,556	3,118,724	595,166	634,439	462,168
March ...	...	...	1,960,887	2,056,251	4,433,104	420,766	257,368	755,707
Total (four months) ...			9,353,357	10,437,786	10,894,352	2,031,630	1,315,182	1,752,836

The course of wheat prices is shown in Table 25.

4. BUTTER.

The production of butter in factories in the eight months July, 1939 to February, 1940, was 80,919,000 lb. as compared with 71,626,000 lb. in the corresponding months of the previous season.

The exportable surplus of Australian butter in 1939-40 is being purchased by the British Government at an agreed price for choicest butter of 137s. 2d. per cwt., f.o.b., Australian ports.

Month.	Output of Butter (New South Wales factories).		Butter exported overseas (New South Wales).			
	1938-39.	1939-40.	Quantity.		Value.	
			1938-39	1939-40.	1938-39.	1939-40.
Thousand lb.						
Nine months ended 31st					£	£
March ...	83,763		16,880	28,697	1,000,088	1,758,676
July ...	4,437	6,585	661	2,223	44,320	130,444
August ...	4,887	6,355	309	964	20,299	55,691
September ...	6,915	7,335	518	1,931	32,131	115,600
October ...	10,842	10,164	1,617	2,312	97,154	146,715
November ...	12,589	13,427	4,299	3,969	249,841	246,103
December ...	11,423	13,822	4,096	4,991	222,445	294,692
January ...	9,707	12,629	2,528	6,319	152,890	400,788
February ...	10,826	10,602	1,009	3,559	63,500	215,766
March ...	12,137		1,843	2,429	117,508	152,877

NEW SOUTH WALES.

5. COAL.

The quantity of coal raised in 1939 was 11,196,000 tons, compared with 9,571,000 tons in 1938 and 10,052,000 tons in 1937.

Month.	Coal Hauled by Government Railways.†			Coal Exported from New South Wales.†		
	1938.	1939.	1940.	1938.	1939.	1940.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Year ended 31st Dec. ...	7,138,605½	8,410,132	.....	3,063,746½	3,563,968	.....
January ...	552,240	567,189	501,952	220,444	242,092	234,202
February ...	640,100	727,526	581,988	266,540	316,449	234,414
March ...	672,461	806,565	\$240,000*	340,727	334,753	\$132,000*
Quarter ended 31st March	1,864,801	2,101,280	\$1,323,940*	827,711	893,294	\$600,616*

* Approximate. † Cargo and bunker, Overseas and Interstate. ‡ Excludes coal used by the Railway Department and coal shipped or used in New South Wales without being hauled over Government railways.
§ Affected by an industrial dispute.

6. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

Tabulations embracing monthly returns from 42 large factories show the following results which afford some indication of trends in the manufacturing industry:—

Month.	Factory Sales.				Employees.				Weekly Salaries and Wages.			
	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
	Thousand £.				Hundreds.				Hundred £.			
January ...	2,616	2,766	2,738	3,212	212	231	231	235	786	928	950	1,004
February ...	2,853	3,153	3,070	3,468	221	232	232	239	839	939	964	1,015
March ...	3,147	3,570	3,406		222	232	229		839	949	961	
April ...	3,106	2,979	2,791		223	232	230		844	922	939	
May ...	2,938	3,241	3,242		222	233	230		853	961	954	
June ...	2,958	2,935	3,013		224	236	228		868	947	927	
July ...	3,064	3,029	2,961		227	238	228		871	975	950	
August ...	3,025	3,141	3,386		228	238	230		883	968	954	
September ...	3,231	3,407	3,669		229	237	231		903	967	974	
October ...	3,147	3,005	3,421		235	239	236		941	971	992	
November ...	3,437	3,305	3,841		236	240	239		959	989	1,018	
December ...	3,452	3,327	3,606		236	236	240		1,000	1,008	1,045	
Average (January -February) ...	2,734	2,960	2,904	3,340	216	232	232	237	812	934	957	1,010

For the volume of monthly employment in factories, see Table 22.

7. BUILDING INDUSTRY.

Value of permits to erect new buildings and additions (compiled from returns of Municipal and certain Shire Councils). Government buildings are excluded:—

Year.	Month of March.				December Quarter.			
	Sydney and Suburbs.	City of Sydney.	Suburbs of Sydney.		Industrial and Rural Towns.		Total, New South Wales.*	
	Total New Buildings and Additions.	New Buildings and Additions.	New Buildings.		New Buildings.		New Buildings and Additions.	
			No.	Value.	No.	Value.		
1937 ...	£ 720,463	£ 63,144	410	£ 540,706	1,165	£ 917,181	£ 4,629,604	
1938 ...	1,303,001	377,423	665	786,293	1,171	936,291	4,645,626	
1939 ...	992,553	199,788	601	698,683	924	681,215	3,785,609	
1940 ...	869,646	68,588	508	708,750				

* Including seven Shires adjoining Metropolitan Area.

More detailed information extending over a number of years is shown on pages 22 to 25 of the "New South Wales Statistical Bulletin" for December Quarter, 1939.

SECTION B.—TRADE.

8. VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.*

To and from New South Wales direct Oversea.

Year.	Australian Currency Values.				British Currency Values.			
	Month of March.		Nine months ended 31st March.		Month of March.		Nine months ended 31st March.	
	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Imports.	Exports.
	Thousand £ A.				Thousand £ Stg.			
1938	5,289	4,332	46,215	32,941	4,223	3,458	36,898	26,300
1939	5,117	3,585	41,651	29,116	4,086	2,862	33,255	23,246
1940	6,141	4,963	46,325	37,377	4,903	3,963	36,985	29,842

* Excluding bullion and specie.

The values of imports represent the cost f.o.b. port of export plus 10 per cent., and are recorded in English currency. The values of exports are the values in the principal markets of New South Wales, and are recorded in Australian currency. The respective equivalent values in Australian and British currencies shown above are estimated.

9. WHOLESALE TRADE.

Approximate Amount of Sales (N.S.W.) by Traders Registered under Sales Tax Acts.
Total Taxable and Exempt Goods.

Mon th.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
	Million £.	Million £.	Million £.	Million £.	Million £.	Million £.	Million £.
January	9'87	10'85	11'27	13'74	14'21	13'24	16'33
February	10'37	10'82	12'72	14'64	15'72	16'54	14'64
Two months ended February	20'24	21'67	23'99	28'38	29'93	29'78	30'97
August	11'40	13'54	13'13	16'27	15'28	16'81	
September	12'25	12'84	13'77	16'28	†17'45	†19'44	
October	12'47	14'70	15'10	16'47	15'66	19'22	
November	11'99	13'20	14'52	17'35	16'93	17'53	
December	12'69	13'98	13'98	17'17	17'00	18'32	
Year ended 31st December ...	137'22	151'21	161'87	191'83	192'97	200'29	

† Rate of tax increased.

Numerous commodities were exempted from tax as from 26th October, 1933, 1st August, 1934, 25th October, 1935, and 26th September, 1936. Consequently, many traders dealing exclusively in exempt goods ceased to supply returns and the proportion of wholesale trade covered by the records was progressively reduced. Allowance on this account should be made when comparing recent totals with those for 1936 and earlier years.

10. RETAIL TRADE.

Returns collected by the Retail Traders' Association Research Bureau in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bank from the principal Sydney stores indicate the following increases or decreases per cent. for periods shown below compared with corresponding periods of previous year:—

Month.	Number of Business Days in Month.		Net Sales (Value).	Value of Stock.	Wages and Salaries Paid.	Number of Employees.	Three Monthly Moving Average ended month shown.	
	Previous Year.	Current Year.					Net Sales (Value).	Wages and Salaries Paid.
Percentage increase + or decrease —								
1939.								
August ...	27	27	+ 0'6	— 1'6	+ 3'8	— 1'1	— 0'1	+ 2'3
September ...	26	26	+ 8'5	+ 1'5	+ 0'9	— 0'9	+ 2'6	+ 2'1
October ...	25	25	+ 14'0	+ 4'1	+ 3'0	+ 1'3	+ 7'8	+ 2'6
November ...	26	26	+ 2'3	+ 5'2	+ 2'1	+ 1'7	+ 8'1	+ 2'0
December ...	25	24	+ 2'6	+ 7'8	Nil.	+ 1'7	+ 5'6	+ 1'6
Twelve months (Jan. to Dec.)	303	303	+ 2'4	+ 2'0	+ 2'6	+ 0'9	.....	.....
1940								
January ...	24	25	+ 7'8	+ 9'1	+ 4'7	+ 0'4	+ 3'8	+ 2'1
February...	24	25	+ 10'6	+ 12'8	+ 6'5	+ 1'9	+ 6'2	+ 3'5

SECTION C.—TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC.

11. RAILWAYS.

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS REVENUE AND BUSINESS.

The financial results of operations were:—

	Month of February.			Eight Months ended 29th February.		
	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1938 ...	1,487,907	1,107,786	380,121	13,001,297	8,602,416	4,398,881
1939 ...	1,420,360	1,141,834	278,526	12,592,736	9,309,309	3,283,427
1940 ...	1,611,091	1,157,879	453,212	13,948,703	9,367,616	4,581,087

* Interest and Exchange on loan capital are not included as working expenses.

The amount of interest chargeable against the railways in 1938-39 was £5,360,000, exclusive of £1,214,983 sinking fund, exchange, etc.

	Month of February.		Eight Months ended 29th February.	
	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.
	thousands.	thousands.	thousands.	thousands.
1938 ...	143,802	14,728	1,274,303	124,911
1939 ...	135,603	14,782	1,197,800	126,493
1940 ...	164,533	14,160	1,340,817	118,941

* Goods (including wayleave) and livestock. Ton-mileage represents the weight times the distance (miles) it was carried.

All fares and certain rates of freight were increased by ten per cent. from 1st March, 1939.

12. TRAMWAYS AND OMNIBUSES.

SERVICES OPERATED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ROAD TRANSPORT—NEW SOUTH WALES

PERIOD.	SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.			NEWCASTLE AND SUBURBS.		
	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers carried.†	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers carried.
Month of February—	£	£	thousands.	£	£	thousands.
1938 ...	323,483	63,983	27,942	24,390	6,602	2,023
1939 ...	323,378	51,396	27,002	23,335	3,543	1,903
1940 ...	337,798	53,372	29,161	24,546	3,531	2,024
Eight Months ended 29th February—						
1938 ...	2,645,957	496,331	228,025	189,028	36,280	15,576
1939 ...	2,693,090	396,206	230,374	193,817	32,882	15,824
1940 ...	2,768,146	446,185	232,053	204,166	41,628	16,729

* Sinking Fund, Interest on Loan Capital, Exchange and Depreciation (amounting in 1938-39 to £646,000) are not included as working expenses.

† Excludes Sydney Harbour Bridge passengers whose journey did not extend beyond the Bridge Section.

13. MOTOR VEHICLES.

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES (N.S.W.) AS AT VARIOUS DATES.
(Including Commonwealth and State Government Vehicles.)

Class.	31st March 1938.	1939.				1940.		
		31st March.	30th June.	30th September.	31st December.	31st January.	29th February.	31st March
Cars	201,791	213,970	216,050	216,465	216,443	215,477	215,114	214,603
Lorries and Vans ...	71,432	76,270	76,726	77,632	77,539	77,047	76,703	76,448
Trailers	5,062	6,229	6,414	6,578	7,010	7,018	6,986	7,008
Tractors	793	984	1,035	1,132	1,193	1,199	1,202	1,201
Cycles—Solo	17,097	17,247	17,180	17,106	16,384	16,168	15,922	15,785
Cycles—Side-car ...	6,975	7,017	6,971	6,826	6,625	6,558	6,474	6,447
Omnibuses	721	741	777	800	825	813	813	825
Taxi-cabs	1,198	1,283	1,313	1,338	1,341	1,346	1,349	1,352
Traders' Plates ...	1,085	1,124	1,164	1,198	1,194	1,078	1,084	1,084
Total	306,154	324,865	327,630	329,075	328,554	326,704	325,648	324,753

Average Weekly Number of New Vehicles Registered.*

Year.	Cars (Including Cabs and Omnibuses).						Lorries and Vans.					
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1936	328	445	457	332	344	402	99	135	137	172	193	183
1937	408	456	526	421	483	534	137	159	138	221	246	222
1938	427	470	505	343	428	457	163	184	177	177	202	163
1939	325	505	435	314	368	544	117	127	131	145	169	127
1940	246	333	268				87	110	106			

* Excluding trailers.

14. WIRELESS LICENSES.

BROADCAST LISTENERS' LICENSES IN FORCE IN N.S.W.
(Excluding Experimental Licenses.)

End of Month.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
January	296,482	342,155	389,055	423,649	444,522
February	299,715	343,497	391,198	427,211	446,927
March	304,954	345,056	395,593	427,964	447,310
October	336,091	378,728	419,912	435,573	...
November	338,106	383,944	420,087	440,335	...
December	340,829	387,043	420,595	441,934	...

SECTION D.—FINANCIAL.

15. SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).†

As at June 30th.†	Amount of Deposits.	End of Month.	Amount of Deposits.		
			1938.	1939.	1940.
	£		£	£	£
1929	85,727,514	January ...	83,282,881*	86,824,101*	86,715,917*
1930	82,465,430	February ...	83,697,582*	86,591,320*	87,167,025*
1931	69,810,769	March ...	83,989,040	86,269,445	86,758,907*
1932	71,647,869	April ...	84,211,474*	86,222,208*	...
1933	72,307,685	May ...	84,310,498*	86,097,258*	...
1934	75,714,070	June ...	86,015,685†	87,473,789†	...
1935	77,906,402	July ...	85,952,874*	87,201,203*	...
1936	79,999,948	August ...	86,309,959*	86,957,281*	...
1937	81,952,399	September ...	86,436,219	86,557,014	...
1938	86,015,685	October ...	86,763,372*	86,751,263*	...
1939	87,473,789	November ...	86,341,441*	86,684,205*	...
		December ...	86,645,354	86,581,054	...

* Approximate.

† Including accrued interest.

‡ Amount at credit of depositors' accounts.

16. TRADING BANKS*—DEPOSITS ETC. IN AUSTRALIA.

March Quarter.	Deposits.	Cash in Aust.†	Treasury Bills.	Govt. and Municipal Securities.	Advances.
	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £
1938 ...	320,023	39,634	20,087	22,759	276,597
1939 ...	321,632	36,144	25,418	20,330	284,929
1940 ...	347,862	44,112	41,257	33,351	279,676

* Nine Private Banks.

† Exclusive of London Funds.

17. PRIVATE BUSINESS IN PRIVATE BANKS (N.S.W.).

(Excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and excluding Government deposits and Government Securities in Private Trading Banks.)

March Quarter.	Deposits.			Advances.	Excess of Advances over Deposits.
	Bearing Interest (Fixed).	Not Bearing Interest (Current).	Total.		
	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £
1938 ...	62,477	51,667	114,144	114,480	336
1939 ...	64,534	51,453	115,987	119,548	3,561
1940 ...	65,852	60,410	126,262	116,880	(-) 9,382

(—) Denotes an excess of Deposits over Advances.

18. INTER-BANK CLEARINGS (SYDNEY).

(Value of cheques drawn on a Bank other than the Bank in which they were Deposited.)

Month.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Amount—Million £								Index Numbers.						
January ...	59.5	56.9	66.4	76.7	67.5	66.5	82.6	78	75	89	101	97	98	110
February...	59.3	59.7	69.2	77.4	75.6	75.5	88.9	77	75	86	101	96	96	110
March ...	58.8	57.7	69.9	77.2	82.6	80.5	87.8	75	74	85	98	95	93	107
April ...	52.8	61.3	63.5	80.6	75.7	70.7		74	78	87	103	102	98	
May ...	61.7	64.9	68.4	76.1	82.9	82.0		74	79	86	100	103	100	
June ...	72.1	73.7	69.5	79.2	86.8	80.3		78	86	87	103	106	101	
July ...	54.8	61.2	65.1	75.0	70.5	71.2		76	83	85	97	101	98	
August ...	47.8	59.6	61.9	70.0	72.9	74.9		73	84	86	98	101	99	
September	61.7	62.5	68.1	79.8	77.6	74.9		73	82	87	101	99	99	
October ...	63.7	72.2	76.6	80.1	79.5	78.0		76	85	91	101	101	100	
November	63.2	75.1	79.7	81.3	82.7	86.1		80	89	96	103	102	102	
December	60.7	71.2	84.3	83.9	88.1	91.7		77	90	99	101	102	106	
Year ...	716.1	776.0	842.6	937.3	942.4	932.3		76	82	89	101	101	100	

The index may be regarded as an approximate measure of changes in the volume of business transactions settled by cheques provided it is considered in conjunction with changes in price levels. It represents the ratio of each month's clearings to the average for the month concerned during the five years 1926-1930. This average is represented by 100 each month. Seasonal fluctuations have thus been eliminated. Casual fluctuations in monthly index numbers have been smoothed out by taking a three months' moving average, that is the index shown above for each month is the average of the actual index of that month and the preceding two months. It may be compared vertically or horizontally.

The index is adjusted to eliminate the effects of Treasury Bill and other special transactions on behalf of Governments and the effects of bank amalgamations. No adjustment has been made for normal growth or change of price levels. The amounts of clearings shown are the recorded totals less Treasury Bill transactions only.

19. INTEREST RATES IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Period.	First Mortgages Registered. Proportion of Total Amount for which Rates are disclosed.					Australian Consolidated Loans. Interest yield (including Redemption) on all Securities Repayable:—				
	Rate of Interest per cent per annum.					Over 5 to 10 Years.	Over 10 to 15 Years.	Over 15 Years.	Over 5 Years. (over all Rate.)	
	4½ or under.	Over 4½-5.	Over 5-6.	Over 6-7.	Over 7.					
Per cent—Per annum.										
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1935 ...	46	30	18	4	2	3 9 7	3 10 1	3 13 9	3 11 1	3 11 1
1936 ...	39	37	18	4	2	3 16 10	3 17 6	3 18 9	3 17 8	3 17 8
1937 ...	32	39	24	3	2	3 16 4	3 17 5	3 18 1	3 17 4	3 17 4
1938 ...	30	38	25	5	2	3 14 5	3 15 0	3 15 10	3 15 0	3 15 0
1939 ...	18	34	37	8	3	3 17 9	3 18 4	3 18 4	3 18 1	3 18 1
1939-September ...	16	36	36	9	3	4 1 0	4 1 1	4 1 9	4 1 3	4 1 3
October ...	13	35	39	10	3	3 18 5	3 19 10	4 0 2	3 19 5	3 19 5
November ...	15	33	39	10	3	3 16 10	3 18 5	3 19 1	3 18 0	3 18 0
December ...	14	33	40	10	3	3 15 5	3 17 3	3 17 11	3 16 9	3 16 9
1940-January ...	19	30	38	10	3	3 14 3	3 15 7	3 16 2	3 15 2	3 15 2
February ...	17	31	39	10	3	3 12 4	3 12 10	3 12 7	3 12 7	3 12 7
March ...	16	33	38	10	3	3 10 10	3 12 0	3 12 5	3 11 8	3 11 8
At 11th April ...	...	...	...	...	...	3 5 3	3 7 5	3 9 3	3 7 1	3 7 1

Interest rates on first mortgages are the average for the three months ended in the month shown.

20. REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.).

(Registered under Real Property Act and Registration of Deeds Act.)

Month.	Consideration of Sales.					Amount of Mortgages.*				
	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1936.†	1937.	1938.†	1939.†	1940.
	Thousand £.									
January ...	2,153	2,954	2,383	2,449	1,884	1,241	1,861	1,771	1,591	1,480
February ...	2,564	2,596	3,285	2,438	2,524	1,200	1,688	1,868	1,841	1,428
March ...	3,090	2,992	3,280	3,623	2,464	3,030	2,134	2,036	2,225	1,686
April ...	3,033	2,792	2,770	2,245		1,399	1,607	2,359	2,025	
May ...	2,317	2,716	3,989	3,090		1,376	1,850	2,727	2,112	
June ...	2,839	2,879	2,898	2,613		1,756	1,842	2,604	1,658	
July ...	3,288	4,692	2,894	2,919		1,668	2,550	2,285	1,950	
August ...	2,787	2,925	4,262	3,068		1,686	1,771	2,184	2,770	
September ...	2,815	2,665	3,079	2,934		1,563	1,593	2,085	1,501	
October ...	2,508	3,079	3,111	2,330		2,270	2,241	2,153	1,713	
November ...	3,212	3,478	2,671	2,381		1,504	2,694	2,505	1,702	
December ...	2,940	3,585	2,797	2,067		1,831	1,980	2,343	1,344	
Year ...	33,546	37,353	37,419	32,157		20,511†	23,811	26,967†	22,444†	
Three Months ended 31st March ...	7,807	8,542	8,948	8,510	6,872	5,471	5,683	5,675	5,657	4,594

* Including new mortgages and renewals as registered.

† Totals for months are approximate and aggregate differs slightly from annual total.

The average monthly transactions for period 1925-1929 were:—Sales, £4,619,000; and Mortgages, £4,042,000.

NOTE.—Mortgages and liens in some instances secure fluctuating advances, the amount of which is not recorded in the legal instruments. The amounts shown relate substantially to mortgages of fixed amounts for fixed periods, and exclude fluctuating advances (such as overdrafts) secured by mortgage. Mortgages providing collateral security of subsisting mortgages are included.

In the three months ended 31st March 1940, mortgages, exclusive of those providing collateral security amounted to £3,600,000 as compared with £5,030,000 and £4,734,000 in the corresponding period of 1939 and 1938 respectively.

21. LIENS ON CROPS AND WOOL AND MORTGAGES ON LIVESTOCK.

(Registered under Liens on Crops and Wool and Stock Mortgages Act.)

	Month of March.			Three Months ended 31st March.		
	Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.	Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1938 ...	254,501	292,900	225,631	792,271	800,801	513,371
1939 ...	319,407	428,885	148,682	759,045	918,730	431,721
1940 ...	291,955	338,508	101,868	578,842	872,183	341,293

See note under Table 20.

SECTION E.—GENERAL.

22.—EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

(APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN MIDDLE WEEK OF MONTH.)

Month.	Total in Employment. (a)	Total in Private Employment.	Total Employed in Factories.	Number Employed by Employers with 10 or more Employees in—			
				Mines.	Retail Trade.	Wholesale Trade.	Offices and Commerce.
1933—June (b) ...	594,273	477,577	139,744	15,504	38,544	17,638	20,340
1938—February ...	833,755	684,830	226,300	20,972	51,919	24,857	26,205
March ...	835,154	685,237	229,200	21,166	50,727	25,279	26,013
1938—December...	859,694	708,949	230,100	21,709	58,716	26,340	27,581
1939—January ...	820,376	670,350	223,100	21,396	51,304	25,381	27,131
February ...	833,557	683,422	228,100	21,349	53,046	25,555	27,193
March ...	834,129	683,091	230,800	21,311	51,317	25,682	27,610
1939—December (d)	875,466	723,704	240,400(c)	21,403	58,967	26,468	29,438
1940—January (d)	851,355	699,981	235,900(c)	20,783	52,372	25,614	29,158
February (d)	859,409	706,638	237,300(c)	21,041	53,602	25,674	29,553
March (d)	865,691	712,285	241,300(c)	21,037	52,062	25,963	29,276

(a) Excluding Rationed Relief Workers.

(b) Census of 30th June.

(c) Subject to revision.

(d) Excluding men on Naval and Military duty who were not on pay sheets of private employers.

23.—INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT—N.S.W.

After comprehensive analysis of Census data, the returns of private employers accompanying remittances of wages tax, and returns of Government employment, the following indexes have been compiled covering total employment and unemployment in New South Wales:—

Middle of Month.				Proportion of all who are dependent on and available for employment—			
				(a) Including full-time equivalent of part-time relief workers as employed.		(b) Excluding part-time relief workers from employed.	
				Employed.	Unemployed.	Employed.	Unemployed.
				per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1933—June Census	...	...	...	74.4	25.6	73.5	26.5
1938—February	...	...	...	96.0	4.0	95.0	5.0
March	...	...	...	96.0	4.0	94.9	5.1
1939—February	...	...	...	94.4	5.6	93.3	6.7
March	...	...	...	94.2	5.8	93.2	6.8
1940—February	...	...	...	95.1	4.9	94.4	5.6
March	...	...	...	95.6	4.4	94.9	5.1

NOTES.

(1) The index of employment is the ratio of number in employment (first column of Table 22) to estimated number of wage earners available for employment. The index of unemployment is the residue, but both indexes are derived by modifying the census ratios in accordance with subsequent changes.

(2) "Number in employment" is virtually a direct record; "number of available wage earners" is an estimate derived by increasing the total of wage earners in employment (plus unemployed) at the Census of 1933 in ratio to the annual increase in persons aged 15 to 64 years. In order to increase the degree of precision in the index, adjustment is made in the number of available wage earners thus estimated to allow for (a) increase in the proportion of females who are wage earners (b) youths who were without occupation but were not recorded in the wage-earning group at the Census of 1933. Adjustment for seasonal variations in employment is not made except in respect of casual retail employees in December.

(3) At the census of 1933, 15,142 persons, or 1.8 per cent. of total dependent on employment, were unemployed by reason of illness, accident, etc., or voluntarily. These are excluded from the above indexes which relate to percentages of available wage earners employed and unemployed.

(4) The percentages of unemployment shown above are approximations relating to all wage earners of both sexes. Separate estimates for males and females cannot be made from the data available.

24. CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY.

Index of Monthly Sales of Gas and Electricity (Sydney).

(Based on number of units each equal to 3,412 British Thermal Units.)

Month.	Average, 1929 to 1931.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
January ...	100	103	101	96	93	98	100	110	114	116	125	136
February ...	100	105	98	97	95	97	100	112	115	122	125	135
March ...	100	102	101	97	95	98	99	111	115	121	130	130
April ...	100	104	100	96	96	96	101	110	119	119	125	
May ...	100	106	100	94	95	97	100	110	117	122	128	
June ...	100	103	100	97	99	97	103	114	124	127	131	
July ...	100	105	99	96	97	96	100	112	122	126	134	
August	100	106	100	94	97	101	103	107	120	128	135	
September	100	108	98	94	97	99	101	113	118	123	134	
October	100	109	97	94	96	99	104	113	119	121	135	
November	100	109	96	95	97	103	104	116	124	124	136	
December	100	105	93	97	99	101	106	116	122	124	131	
Year	100	105	99	96	96	98	102	112	119	123	131	

25. INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES

(SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911=100 in all cases. Australian Currency.

Period.	Wool.	Wheat.	Butter (Local Sales).	Non- Rural.||	100 Com- modities Average.
1911 ...	100	100	100	100	100
1929 ...	162	140	204	184	186
1931 ...	105	70	154	180	155
1932 ...	96	88	140	177	152
1933 ...	127	82	124	172	151
1934 ...	147	77	133	167	150
1935 ...	128	92	142	165	153
1936 ...	168	120	142	165	156
1937 ...	193	148	146	173	168
1938 ...	129	101	157	172	168
1939 ...	135	73	160	175	164
1939—January ...	124	70	160	172	166
February ...	125	70	160	172	167
March ...	121	67	160	173	169
April ...	118	69	160	173	165
May ...	116	74	160	173	161
June ...	124	70	160	172	159
July ...	128	66	160	172	159
August ...	128	64	160	172	159
September ...	158§	79	160	174	165
October ...	158§	76	160	180	167
November ...	158§	80	160	181	164
December ...	158§	97	160	187	170
1940—January ...	158§	108	160	191	172
February ...	158§	108	160	191	173
March ...	158§	108	160	190	174

RATES OF EXCHANGE.

Parities in January, 1929=100 in all cases.

Average Rates of Exchange.†				
Australia on London.	London on New York.	London on Paris.	Australia on New York.	Australia on Paris.
100	...	...	...	...
102	100	100	102	102
128	107	107	140	137
125	139	139	174	172
125	115	147	143	181
125	97	162	120	201
125	99	167	124	208
125	98	150	122	186
125	98	100	123	124
125	99	73	124	91
125	110	70	137	88
125	104	70	130	87
125	104	70	129	88
125	104	70	130	88
125	104	70	130	88
125	104	70	130	88
125	104	70	130	88
125	106	70	132	88
125	120	70	150	88
125	121	70	151	88
125	121	70	151	88
125	121	70	151	88
125	121	70	151	88

† Approximate; the above table expresses in the form of an index the amount of currency of the country first mentioned required to buy a fixed quantity of the second named country's currency.

§ Based on price paid by British Government for the Australian clip.

|| Includes only those (non-rural) primary, manufactured and imported commodities which are included in the index for 100 commodities. Highly manufactured articles are not included. The individual items are listed on pages 488 and 489 of the "Official Year Book of New South Wales" for 1920.

26. WHOLESALE PRICE LEVELS OVERSEA.

	Year	Year.	1939.								1940.	
	1938.	1939.	Feb.	June.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Great Britain—Board of Trade (1930 = 100)...	101·4	102·6	96·8	98·1	98·1	98·1	105·6	110·9	117·2	120·9	123·8	128·6
United States—Irving Fisher (1926 = 100) ...	81·2	80·9	79·8	79·0	78·7	78·2	82·4	83·5	84·1	85·6	85·8	84·6*

*The average for the first three weeks of March, 1940, was 84·3.

27. PRICES OF METALS.

Average Monthly Prices of Metals (Export Parity f.o.b. Australia) in Australian Currency.

Period.	Silver (Standard).		Lead.		Zinc (Electrolytic).		Copper (Electrolytic).		Tin (Standard).		Gold (Fine).	
	per oz.		per ton.		per ton.		per ton.		per ton.		per oz.	
	s.	d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1928	2	2·79	19 11	7	26	5 8	68	6 2	219	7 5	4	4 11
1929	2	0·57	21 14	5	25	19 5	84	10 11	200	11 5	4	4 11
1938	2	0·14	17 12	11	19 12	10	55	15 2	228	11 10	8	17 2
1939	2	1·42	17 12	1*	19 15	3	59	15 1	268	3 6	9	14 4
1939—October ...	2	4·34	18 11	10	21 9	1	60	12 6	267	9 0	10	11 0
November ...	2	5·14	19 16	10	21 12	9	60	12 6	264	6 4	10	11 11
December ...	2	3·80	18 18	1	21 10	4	60	12 6	285	2 11	10	12 6
1940—January ...	2	2·15	19 7	7	21 6	9	60	12 6	276	8 9	10	12 9
February ...	2	2·17	19 0	9	21 6	9	60	12 6	280	10 1	10	13 2

*Revised.

28. STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX (SYDNEY).

The following index of the values of the principal Company shares on Sydney Stock Exchange embraces the ordinary shares of companies (excluding banking companies) whose business is conducted wholly or largely in New South Wales.

The prices of individual shares are unweighted, and each group average is the mean of the average monthly prices per £ of paid-up capital. The aggregate index is the average for the whole of the shares included in the groups with the addition of 24 miscellaneous shares. There is no base period as the index represents the ratio per cent. of the average prices of ordinary shares to their par values; adjustment being made where capital is written off or bonus shares issued.

Month.	23 Manufacturing and Distributing Companies.	10 Retail Companies.	8 Public Utility Companies.	5 Pastoral and Finance Companies.	5 Insurance Companies.	Total * Companies 75.	34 Active Shares included in foregoing.
April, 1929 \$	179·3	183·8	129·4	174·1	243·5	174·4	172·6
Sept., 1931 \$	72·3	60·2	87·9	75·2	121·3	74·4	77·2
Mar., 1937 \$	213·8	203·8	181·0	169·2	281·2	190·4	200·5
1939—Sept. ...	208·8	161·3	151·6	127·1	256·6	171·1	180·0
Oct. ...	214·1	165·3	149·9	131·1	257·6	173·3	183·0
Nov. ...	220·0	171·8	147·1	132·3	261·0	176·7	187·8
Dec. ...	222·3	172·6	149·4	130·9	262·2	178·8	190·9
1940—Jan. ...	229·0	174·0	151·9	131·8	269·9	181·6	195·2
Feb. ...	222·7	170·9	146·7	132·3	269·3	178·2	191·1
Mar. ...	216·9	167·2	141·5	131·8	263·4	173·7	186·2

* Including 24 Miscellaneous Companies. \$ The highest point of the index, prior to the slump, was reached in April, 1929, the lowest in September, 1931, and the highest point in March, 1937.

The population of N.S.W. at 31st December, 1939, was 2,770,348 or 39 per cent. of the total population of Australia (Sydney and Suburbs, 31st December, 1938, 1,288,721).

NOTICE.

This summary is issued as soon as practicable after the 20th of each month. The subscription for twelve months is 3s. (posted), payable to the Government Printer, Phillip-street, Sydney, or 3d. per single copy at the Government Printing Office. This charge applies in all cases, except exchanges and Government Departments.

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The figures for the most recent months are, in general, subject to revision.

Bureau of Statistics and Economics, 61 Hunter-street, Sydney.

24th April, 1940.